

[Translation]

LIC Scheme to Women

4252. DR. M.P. JAISWAL :

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Life Insurance Corporation has introduced an exclusive plan for women;
- (b) if so, the salient features thereof;
- (c) how is it beneficial to common woman as well as the Indian economy; and
- (d) the steps taken to popularise the said plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (d) The Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India have reported that they have introduced a new plan 'Jeevan S-neha', exclusively for women. The salient features of the plan are given below :-

- (i) Provision for survival benefit at periodic intervals; full sum assured payable on death irrespective of the survival benefit(s) paid earlier.
- (ii) Guaranteed additions to the sum assured at the rate of Rs. 70 per thousand, payable on death or maturity.
- (iii) Provision for loyalty addition after the policy has been in force for 5 years.
- (iv) No forfeiture of the policy for non-payment of premium in the first three years if the premium has been paid for two years.
- (v) Option for advance payment of premium in three instalments on which a rebate is allowed.
- (vi) Coverage of pregnancy and child birth risks.
- (vii) Built in accident benefits.
- (viii) Provision for option for pension (annuity) on maturity.
- (ix) Flexibility in claiming the survival benefits. If not claimed or opted for on due date then increased survival benefit would be payable.

The plan benefits the women by providing insurance cover in case of death due to childbirth and pregnancy. In addition to the normal death cover, Further, the survival benefit under the plan at specified intervals is meant to provide assistance in times of need like education, marriage, sickness etc. The plan also provides payment of interest on the amount of the survival benefit, if not claimed on due date(s).

Like all other plans of insurance operated by LIC the premium income received under this plan will be invested in terms of the statutory prescribed investment pattern which is heavily loaded in favour of the socially oriented sector.

The Scheme is being widely publicised by LIC through field personnel and advertisements in newspapers, television and other mass media. According to LIC these measures, coupled with the built-in features of the plan and the rebate and exemption available under the Income Tax Act, are expected to popularise the scheme.

Modernisation of Textiles Mills

4253. SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether some textile mills are being modernised in Madhya Pradesh with the foreign assistance;
- (b) if so, the names of such textile mills;
- (c) the names of the countries and financial institutions which provided assistance for modernisation; and
- (d) the amount of assistance provided by them during each of the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) Reported by, no textile mill in Madhya Pradesh is being modernised with foreign assistance.

- (b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Coal Mine Accident

4254. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

- (a) whether an accident in coal mines of Jammu and Kashmir occurred recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the main cause of the accident; and
- (c) the number of coal mine workers killed/injured in the accident; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to investigate into the matter and provide compensation to the families of the affected workers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. An accident occurred at 1.15 P.M. on 3.3.1997 at New Moghla coal mine of J&K Minerals Limited, District Rajouri, State of Jammu and Kashmir due to ignition of fire damp.

As a result of the accident, 10 workers lost their lives and 12 sustained injuries.

(Source : J&K Minerals Ltd.)

(d) J&K Minerals Ltd. as well as Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) have ordered investigation into the cause of accident.

In addition to the compensation payable under the Workmen's Compensation Act and payment of Coal Mines Provident Fund and family pension under the Coal Mines Provident Fund Act, J&K Minerals have paid an ex-gratia of Rs. 25,000/- to legal heirs of each deceased worker and Rs. 5,000/- each to the injured worker. Besides, employment to one of the legal heir of the deceased has also been ordered.

State Government of Jammu and Kashmir have also announced an ex-gratia of Rs. 1 lakh to the legal heirs of each deceased worker and Rs. 5,000/- each to the injured worker.

Source : J&K Minerals Ltd.)

Monitoring and Control on the Excess of Imports over Exports

4255. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have set up any executive machinery to monitor and control excess of imports over exports and to exercise constant vigilance to keep the imports and exports on a balanced scale;
- (b) if so, the details of monitoring being undertaken in this regard;
- (c) the main reasons for excess of imports over exports in general; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to substitute such imports by internally generated national resources ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, trade performance is observed by the Government as part of the overall macro economic management.

(c) Exports are dependent inter alia on international market conditions, export competitiveness of domestic industry, supportive infrastructure, policy framework etc. while imports are made as per requirement including that of the export sector

(d) Steps are taken from time to time which include inter alia changes in policies and procedures to provide

export friendly environment and for efficient import substitution, incentives for quality improvements, involvement of the State Governments in export promotion, consultations with Trade and Industry etc.

[Translation]

Development of Textile Industry

4256. SHRI JAYSINGH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Union Government have provided assistance to encourage textile industry during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof State-wise;
- (c) the position of Gujarat in textile industry;
- (d) the quantum of textile manufactured in the State; and
- (e) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to encourage the exports of textile manufactured in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) and (b) The Union Government has taken various measures to encourage the Textile Industry in the country, which is equally applicable to all states including Gujarat.

The Indian Textile industry comprises of various segments; namely mill sector, powerloom, handloom etc. Depending on the needs of each segment of the industry policy interventions involving formulation of financial and administrative steps by the government for various segments is a continuous process keeping in mind the broad objectives laid down in the Textile policy 1985. The government have taken various steps from time to time to encourage textile production in each segment. These include;

Liberalisation of licensing provision; fiscal restructuring; permitting import of textile machinery under OGL; and reduction of custom duty on such imports; research and development activities; setting up of laboratories facilities; simplification of quota system; setting up of BIFR to inquire into working of sick industrial units, and to prepare and sanction, as appropriate, scheme for revival of mills; reserving certain items for manufacture by handloom sector only; by way of running Powerloom Services Centres, Computer Aided Design Centres; improving quality of textile products and boosting their value addition through various Textile Research Associations; removal of restrictions on the creation and expansion of capacity, subject only to locational guidelines; working on various programmes for the promotion of export of the various segments of the Indian Textile Industry through various Export Promotion Councils under M/o Textiles;